Water and Sewer Rates Changing to Per Unit Rate Structure

Lindenhurst Village officials recently announced a planned change in how customers are charged for water and sanitary sewer. Under the current structure, all customers, regardless of usage, pay a minimum charge of $35.06 for water and $66.22 for sanitary sewer on a bi-monthly basis.

After review of the current rate structure for both water and sewer it was determined a flat per unit rate structure would be a more common and equitable system. This would eliminate the minimum charges, allow residents to better manage costs by controlling usage. In addition, this new rate structure encourages conservation.

Based upon this review, the Village will implement a flat per unit charge for both water and sewer with no minimum charges. Effective with the May 1, 2017 bills, the water rate will be $6.09 per unit and the sewer rate will be $5.75 per unit. Seniors age 62 and over will still be eligible for a discounted rate.

As communicated in the past, the change to Lake Michigan water will result in an increase in water rates. This increase will pay the cost of purchasing water from CLCJAWA, as well as the debt service related to the system improvements. Referencing public information communications of 2011-2013, the Village estimated a household using 8 units of water (6,000 gallons) would be asked to pay an additional $16.56. We are happy to report that the actual increase needed will be less, $13.66. However, customers using more water will see larger increases.

For more information on the change in rate structure, please refer to the letter enclosed with this newsletter.
From the Mayor’s Desk

2017 Priorities

What’s in our plans for 2017?

First, we are targeting to complete the construction work for Lake Michigan water. We have completed internal improvements throughout the Village, including the installation of new water mains. We continue to make progress on the Lake Michigan Water Receiving Facility and Pumping Station, which is scheduled for completion this Spring. Bringing Lake Michigan water to Lindenhurst has been a top priority and a multi-year project, but we hope to complete all construction and have Lake Michigan water by the 4th Quarter.

We also plan to complete the Beck Road Reconstruction project. Paving and concrete work was completed, but we have some restoration/landscaping work to complete as soon as the weather cooperates.

We will continue to remove Village-owned diseased ash trees. We hope to remove most, if not all, of the remaining 300+ trees this year, and then begin shifting our focus on planting replacement trees.

We will see our first auto dealership in the Village open in 2017 — Zeigler Auto Group. With water and sewer service now available in the southeastern corner of the Village, other businesses are beginning to express an interest in locating to that area.

I am optimistic that we may see some progress at improving safety at the Route 45 / Grand Avenue intersection in 2017. We have been working with County and State officials on this project.

Finally, we continue to work toward getting a hospital in Lindenhurst. I continue to have conversations with our legislators and contacts in Governor Rauner’s office.

Stay tuned to future newsletters, as well as our website, for additional information throughout 2017.

Doni Martin

EARTH WEEK APRIL 16 - 22

Although Lindenhurst won’t be celebrating Earth Day until Saturday, April 22nd, there are many things we can do year-round in service to our earth: picking up roadside trash; recycling whenever possible; and planting native plants and trees.

It’s not too early to start planning for your Spring landscaping projects. Residents can take advantage of the Village 50/50 Tree Replacement and Shoreline Stabilization Programs. The Village also has 50/50 Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Programs. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Checkout the Village website at www.lindenhurstil.org for more information on these mutually beneficial programs.

Not only will these enhancements beautify your property, but they greatly benefit the environment. For additional ideas, visit conservelakecounty.org, where you can learn about their Conservation@Home program.

Besides recycling paper, plastics, and glass at home, residents can dispose of their unwanted prescriptions at the Lindenhurst Police Department’s drug disposal bin, located in their front lobby. The Clothing & Textile drop box is located in the Village Hall’s southwest parking lot area. And the shoe recycling bin is located inside the Village Hall foyer, 2301 E. Sand Lake Road.
Linden Notes

Tree Replacement Program

The Village offers a program to assist residents who wish to plant a tree. Under this 50/50 tree replacement program, the Village will reimburse residents who wish to purchase a new tree for their property or parkway area. The program parameters are as follows:

- Residents will be reimbursed 50% of the cost of a single, acceptable tree, excluding sales tax, delivery, installation, etc. up to $200.
- Program dollars would be dispersed by the Village to the homeowner after the purchase and planting of a new tree.
- Households could participate once per year.
- Residents can submit a receipt to Village Hall for reimbursement.
- First come, first serve basis as budgeted funds are available.
- A list of acceptable trees is available on the Village website.

Shoreline Stabilization Program

The Village offers a lakeshore stabilization program for residents who own lakeshore property. Through this program, the Village will reimburse residents who plant acceptable shrubs and plantings that help to preserve the shoreline and water quality of the lakes. The list of acceptable plantings is taken from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This list is also located at www.lindenhurstlakes.com. Other guidelines include the following:

- First come, first serve basis as budgeted funds are available.
- Eligible residents may be reimbursed 50% of their expenditure up to $100.
- Residents must submit a receipt to Village Hall that itemizes the acceptable purchase.
- A list of acceptable plantings is available on the Village website www.lindenhurstil.org.

Utility Bill Payment Options

Residents can take advantage of the Village's on-line utility bill system, at no additional cost. Residents can use the My Utility Account to pay their utility bill, view the bill or receive paperless billing through the e-bill program. To register, visit www.lindenhurstil.org and select the link "pay utilities" on the homepage. Visa, Mastercard and Discover credit cards are all accepted.

Or, residents can download the Village of Lindenhurst app on iTunes or Google Play. Please contact Village Hall at (847) 356-8252 if you have any questions about on-line utility bill payments.

VILLAGE CODE REMINDER: Snowmobile Regulations

- Snowmobiles can only be operated on private property with the permission of the owner.
- Snowmobiles are not permitted on any public right of way or roadway, school grounds, Village or Park District property.
- Special rules apply for Lake Linden and snowmobile equipment requirements. Please call the Village Hall at (847) 356-8252 for more information.

Winter is Here...

Which means it’s time to remove snow. Please remember that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plows Grand Avenue and Route 45, and the Lake County Department of Transportation plows Sand Lake, Gelden and Grass Lake roads. All other public roads in Lindenhurst are maintained by Village snow removal crews.

Snowfall parking restrictions: To assist our snow plow crews, there is no parking on any Village street when there is 1” or more of accumulated snow. The restriction applies until the streets have been cleared of snow. Violators may be towed. And please don’t deposit additional snow onto the roadway from your shoveling or snow-blowing efforts. Following this procedure allows snow plow operators to quickly and efficiently remove snow.

Road Hazards: Though basketball nets are never allowed adjacent to our roadways, they pose a particular hazard to our plow drivers as they clear our streets. Please store them appropriately year around.
Shoveling Safely

As a reminder, please be courteous to your neighbors and entire community by shoveling the sidewalk in front of and near your house. Students and parents may need to use the sidewalk to safely walk to the school bus stop. Residents may also want to walk dogs, and in general, safely traverse from their house to their destination.

When you are shoveling, please be cautious and exercise proper ergonomics. According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, you should squat with your legs apart, knees bent, and back straight; lift with your legs and do not bend at the waist. Consider a shovel with a plastic blade instead of metal so it’s lighter weight. Push the snow - don’t lift it. You may also want to warm up prior to shoveling, just as you would for any exercise. If possible, consider using a snow blower. If at any time you experience pain, stop your activity.

Ice and Ice Fishing Safety Tips

Remember in the winter, moving ice can damage docks. Damaged and unrepair dock are unseit and unsafe. Docks and piers should be maintained in a manner so they remain safe and are not hazardous to the environment or individuals using the lakes. Lindenhurst’s lakes have great year-round fishing. You can catch bluegill, largemouth bass, tiger muskie and channel catfish. Ordinances are the same for ice fishing as they are for warm weather fishing:

- Lake use is only for residents and their accompanied guests
- No bait fish (minnows) allowed
- Catch and release (except for bluegill – 25 per day)

Heed these safety precautions when fishing on ice:

- Pay attention to the color of the ice; clear blue lake ice is the strongest
- Cloudy, opaque ice holds the least amount of weight
- Before going out onto the ice, walk along the shore in the area that you plan to fish to check for open water areas and areas of thin ice
- Wear a personal flotation device
- Always travel with others, preferably experienced ice fishermen

Congratulations Commander Eric Senica

Lindenhurst’s recently promoted police commander grew up in Lindenhurst and lived here for 22 years.

After completing his Eagle Scout project at Lindenhurst PD, Eric’s interest in law enforcement grew. In 1990, he became a member of the Lindenhurst Police Explorer Post where he obtained the rank of Sergeant.

In that same year, Eric was hired by the Lindenhurst Police Department. He is a certified Accident Investigator and was a member of the Major Crash Assistance Team, as well as a certified Field Training Officer.

Eric has a Bachelor’s Degree with an emphasis in Criminal Justice, and a Master’s Degree in Management. Commander Senica is also an Adjunct Instructor in McHenry College’s Criminal Justice Department. In 2014, Eric was published in the IACP Command Magazine with his article, “Maintaining a Positive Work Environment in an Era of Diminished Budgets”.

Village of Lindenhurst • 2301 Sand Lake Road • Lindenhurst, IL • 60046
WWW.LINDENHURSTIL.ORG • (847) 356-8252 • MAIL@LINDENHURSTIL.ORG

Mayor Dominic Marturano
Trustee Bill Anderson
Trustee Patty Chybowski
Trustee Dawn Czarny
Trustee Patrick Dunham
Trustee Tracy McGrath
Trustee Dawn Suchy
Village Clerk Jody Stoughtenger

Village Board meetings are scheduled on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall, 2301 E. Sand Lake Road. Please visit www.lindenhurstil.org for more information.